

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 7, and 9;

Please cancel 5, 8, and 11 – 26; and

Please add new Claims 27 – 31, as follows:

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~In the combination of a string instrument and~~ A combination of an acoustic string instrument and a clamp-on chinrest attached to said string instrument, wherein the acoustic string instrument has an acoustic body surrounding and defining a sound chamber, and has strings extending across a bridge, -addition to and wherein said chinrest comprises of:
a chinrest body;
a sound pickup system comprising:
a first audio interface device ~~attached to and~~ extending from said chinrest body ~~for attachment to said string instrument~~ and attached to or near the bridge of said acoustic string instrument;
volume and sensitivity controller receiving input from said first audio interface device; and
an output jack; and
a mounting system comprising a clamp removably connecting the chinrest to the acoustic body and said mounting system comprising no alterations to the acoustic body and thereby minimizing interference with vibration of the acoustic body.
2. (Original) A combination according to Claim 1, wherein said first audio interface device comprises a piezoelectric transducer.
3. (Original) A combination according to Claim 1, wherein said volume and sensitivity controller comprises a potentiometer and a control knob.

4. (Original) A combination according to Claim 3, wherein said control knob is non-circular.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) A combination according to Claim 1, ~~further wherein said human grounding point~~ comprising[[es]] a grounding wire inlaid in said chinrest and extending across an outside surface of said chinrest body and exposed ~~adapted~~ so that it contacts the player during use.
7. (Currently Amended) A combination according to Claim 6, ~~further wherein said human grounding point further~~ comprising[[es]] a second grounding wire extending from said chinrest body and electrically connecting ~~grounding wire~~ to one or more of said string instrument's strings.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) A combination according to Claim 1, wherein the acoustic stringed instrument acoustic body comprises a sound hole, and the chinrest further comprises:
 - a second audio interface device attached to and extending from said chinrest body and extending over said sound hole of the acoustic body; and
 - a second volume and sensitivity controller receiving input from said second audio interface device.
10. (Original) A combination according to Claim 9, wherein said second audio interface device is a microphone.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)

- 15. (Canceled)
- 16. (Canceled)
- 17. (Canceled)
- 18. (Canceled)
- 19. (Canceled)
- 20. (Canceled)
- 21. (Canceled)
- 22. (Canceled)
- 23. (Canceled)
- 24. (Canceled)
- 25. (Canceled)
- 26. (Canceled)

27. (New) A combination as in Claim 1, wherein said clamp is a turnbuckle clamp.

28. (New) A combination as in Claim 1, wherein said chinrest body is made from material selected from the group consisting of ebony, rosewood, hardwood, and plastic, and wherein said chinrest further comprises a metal grounding inlay in said chinrest and extending across an outside surface of said chinrest body and exposed so that it contacts the player during use.

29. (New) A combination as in Claim 28, wherein said metal grounding inlay is copper.

30. (New) A combination as in Claim 28, wherein said acoustic string instrument is a violin and said metal grounding inlay is near an outer edge of a top surface of said chinrest body so that the inlay is adapted to be contacted by a user's chin when said user is playing the violin.

31. (New) A combination as in Claim 28, wherein an end of said metal grounding inlay extends to contact a metal housing of said output jack.